

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 214234

LIMDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT MOSCOW 14597 ACTION SECSTATE
DATED 26 SEPT

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 14597

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAGR UR US

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE SOVIET PURCHASES OF U.S. GRAINS

REF: STATE 211103

1. IN RESPONSE TO MY REQUEST, FIRST DEPUTY MINISTER OF
FOREIGN TRADE KUZMIN RECEIVED ME DURING LATE AFTERNOON
SEPTEMBER 26.

2. FOLLOWING MY PRESENTATION ALONG LINES SET FORTH IN
PARAGRAPHS 2 AND 3 OF REFTTEL, KUZMIN NOTED THAT SECRETARY
BUTZ HAD RECENTLY POSED SIMILAR, ALTHOUGH NOT IDENTICAL,
SERIES OF QUESTIONS TO DOBRYNIN. KUZMIN ADDED THAT DOBRYNIN
HAD BEEN GIVEN INSTRUCTIONS TO REPLY AS FOLLOWS TO
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SECRETARY BUTZ'S QUERIES:

A. SOVIET PURCHASES OF FEED GRAINS THROUGH END OF THIS YEAR (I.E., DECEMBER) WILL BE "CONSIDERABLY REDUCED" FROM PREVIOUS PURCHASES. SOVIET GOVERNMENT "WILL BE QUITE REASONABLE" ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF WORLD SITUATION AND U.S. GOVERNMENT REQUEST.

B. SOVIET GRAIN PRODUCTION FIGURES NOT YET AVAILABLE. THIS SUBJECT WILL BE DISCUSSED AT US-USSR JOINT AGRICULTURAL COMMITTEE MEETING IN OCTOBER. THE USSR IS NOT IN A POSITION TO GIVE MORE INFORMATION AT THIS TIME.

C. THE USSR WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE IN ROME IN NOVEMBER, AND SOVIET PROPOSE THAT U.S. AND SOVIET REPRESENTATIVES CONSULT PRIOR TO THE CONFERENCE.

3. WHILE I WELCOMED SUBSTANCE OF SOVIET RESPONSE, INCLUDING DECISION OF SOVIET GOVERNMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE, I DREW ATTENTION AGAIN TO USG'S STRONG DESIRE TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER SOVIETS INTENDED TO PURCHASE FOOD AND FEED-GRAINS AND SOYBEANS DURING THE CROP YEAR WHICH HAD JUST BEGUN AND, IF SO, IN WHAT AMOUNTS. KUZMIN STATED THAT CONCRETE SOVIET REQUIREMENTS WERE AS YET UNKNOWN BECAUSE MATTERS WERE STILL IN A STATE OF FLUX. SPECIFIC SOVIET REQUIREMENTS WOULD BE CONVEYED TO THE U.S. WHEN EKSPORTHLEB CONTACTED U.S. GRAIN EXPORTERS. HE STRESSED ONCE MORE THAT SOVIET REQUIREMENTS WOULD BE "CONSIDERABLY REDUCED" AND THAT THIS SHOULD BE REASSURING TO THE USG, GIVEN CURRENT CONDITIONS. IN AN OBVIOUS ALLUSION TO THEIR POSTPONEMENT OF GRAIN DELIVERIES IN THE RECENT PAST, KUZMIN UNDERLINED THAT THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT HAS ALWAYS ATTEMPTED TO BE RESPONSIVE TO USG CONCERNS AND REQUESTS.

4. KUZMIN WAS OBVIOUSLY INTERESTED IN MY COMMENT THAT USG REMAINS DETERMINED TO AVOID EXPORT CONTROLS ON GRAIN AND SOYBEANS AS HE MADE A SPECIAL POINT OF EXPRESSING A FERVENT HOPE THAT WOULD INDEED BE THE CASE.

5. REVEALING A SPECIAL INTEREST IN FEED-GRAINS, KUZMIN COMMENTED AT THE CLOSE OF THE CONVERSATION THAT HE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN KNOWING WHAT LEVEL OF SOVIET PURCHASES OF

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FEED-GRAINS FOR REMAINDER OF THIS YEAR "WOULD NOT BE BUREN-
DENSOME" TO U.S.
DUBS UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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